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APRIL - MAY 2023, ₹150

140+ PAGES
INDIA DESIGN
ID REPORT

A SUNSHINE STATE OF MIND

CHIC
SUMMER
HOMES

NEW DELHI MUMBAI BENGALURU

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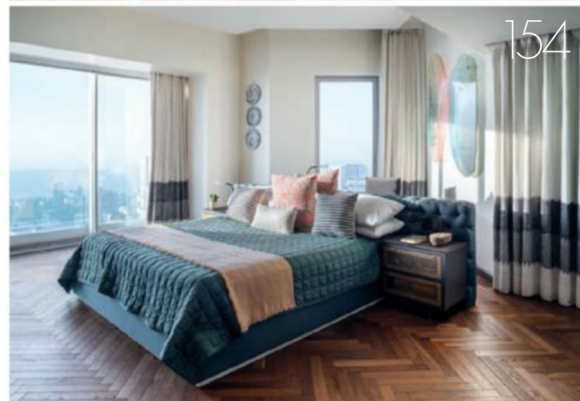
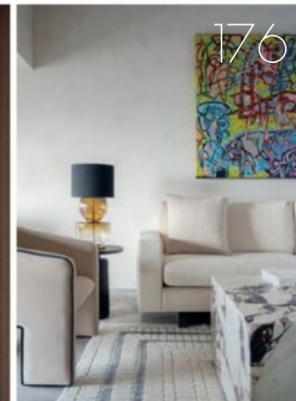
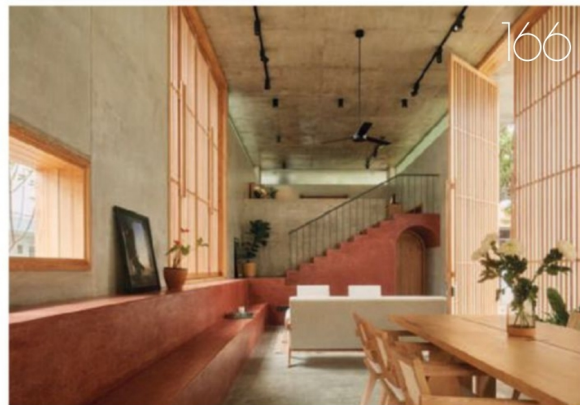
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ELLE DECOR brings you in-depth articles and insights into design, architecture, decor and culture. Introducing our special contributors



VAISHALI KAMDAR
VAISHALI KAMDAR ASSOCIATES

The principal designer at her namesake firm calls herself an OCD victim, humour worshipper, design fiend and a detail lover
My next vacation... Brazil and Mexico are calling. But I'd be lucky if I even got to Calcutta
If not a designer, I'd be... I have been told to do up stand up comedy, but I didn't find it funny.
I'm reading... Resumes
In this issue, she opens doors to a summery palatial home in New Delhi, Pg 130



KUMPAL VAID
PURPLE BACKYARD

The founder and designer has a passion for food but she cannot cook. She is extremely meticulous about organisation, so much that her OCD bars her from driving
My next vacation... Japan for its calm
My summer essentials... An icy cooler
Design to me is... Playtime!
In this issue, she creates a holiday home in the Maximum city, Pg 144



VISHAKHA DHOLAKIA CHOWDHRY
S.ALT STUDIO

A full time architect, she obsesses her way through the details of the day. A poster girl for multi-tasking, she leads a team of architects and interior designers in her studio
My next vacation... Barcelona for a Bruce Springsteen concert
My summer essentials... Sunglasses and my family
If not a designer, I'd be... A musician!
In this issue, she concocts a home by the sea for her sister in Mumbai, Pg 154



SHALINI CHANDRASHEKAR
TALIESYN

With a curious personality, this cofounder is always seeking new adventures. She is also studying to become a nutritionist
My summer essentials... A smart thermos bottle
If not a designer I'd be... An electronics engineer
I'm reading... Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance
In this issue, he designs an earthy and rustic holiday home in Bengaluru, Pg 166



MAHABOOB BASHA
TALIESYN

When not busy designing, you might spot him trekking. While his favourite recreational activity is playing cricket, he finds solace in listening to music
My next vacation... Scotland
My summer essentials... My hat
If not a designer I'd be... A doctor
In this issue, she designs an earthy and rustic holiday home in Bengaluru, Pg 166



SHIVANI AJMERA
QUIRK STUDIO

When she's not designing or instagramming, the cofounder loves to spend her time reading, watching old classics, singing and killing it at Scrabble
My next vacation... Italy
My summer essentials... Kaftans & coconut water
I'm reading... Collected Short Stories by Ruskin Bond
In this issue, she crafts a bright and airy home in Mumbai, Pg 176



DISHA BHAVSAR
QUIRK STUDIO

Along with wearing her design hat, she's also a dog mom to Merlot. The cofounder is also a self proclaimed queen of good vibes and time
My summer essentials... Watermelon, linens & sunscreen
If not a designer I'd be.... Florist or a horticulturist
I'm reading... Forty Rules of Love by Elif Shafak
In this issue, she crafts a bright and airy home in Mumbai, Pg 176

SEASIDE ELIXIR

Everyday the balmy sea waves and golden sunrays serenade this South Mumbai den, where the design musings of Quirk Studio by Shivani Ajmera and Disha Bhavsar unmask the ageless aura of neutrals and the family's collection of artworks

TEXT BY PRATISHTHA RANA PHOTOGRAPHY BY KUBER SHAH



Framing the seas, the living room is awash in monochromes with sofas and armchairs from Blue Loft and NH48 respectively. The marble coffee table from Eter Collective is flanked by a vase by Atelier Ashiesh Shah and a table lamp by Klove Studio

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
A patterned chair from NH48 sits by the window-side with a coffee table from Gunava Design against a neutral wall painted with Kemtex Paints and marble flooring by Classic Marble Company; Charcoal black fluted door opens up to a statement bar console; The other side of the living room with a Harshita Jhamtani Shroom lamp spells calm in the muted canvas



A vibrant colour-burst of sorts, the art piece on the wall by Bhuwal Prasad frames the living room with a table lamp by Klove Studio, furnishing by A to Z Furnishing and a textured carpet courtesy of Kaati Rugs





The modular kitchen by Häcker Kitchens India is clad with VBCL dado tiles and countertop by Decoreta Plus, displaying a fine melange of light grey and wooden tones; **FACING PAGE** Feast by the seaside with the dining table and chairs from Magnolia Furniture Store. The vase is from Atelier Ashiesh Shah and ceiling light by Shailesh Rajput. Artworks from Sakti Burman and Krishen Khanna and wall plate from Fornasetti adds an artsy tenor to this corner



Have you ever rummaged deeply through the meanings of certain words, especially the ones that give a recurring rhythm to your daily life? The designers of this house perhaps did so and chartered beyond the same-old connotations of the word 'decoration'. Yes, a word so simple, often assumed and rife in its usage found a rather stimulating breath of life in this nest dubbed The Sea House. An inebriating scent of independence from the frills of extravagant decoration runs through every room here – peeling off the layers of a canvas where unpretentious interiors meet the gentle temper of the outdoors.

Ensnared up on the sixth floor of an upscale edifice in South Mumbai, the home enjoys ceaseless lullabies of the Arabian Sea, soaring palm trees and the gleaming skyline. This generous luxury of nature takes on a prominent role inside the home, colliding with the interior choices helmed by the women in charge aka the principal designers of Quirk Studio, Shivani Ajmera and Disha Bhavsar. Spilled across a space of 1,500 sq ft, the residence coops up the modern but homebound aspirations of a young

couple who take their love for art rather seriously. A word instantly rings in my linguistic memory when I think of The Sea House. Laconic. Comb through the meaning, it translates to expressing the most with as few words as possible. This home embodies precisely that. A calm (and equally convincing) montage wrapped in minimal colours but with an unwavering, raw glamour that promises to grow along with the family. As the principal designers Shivani and Disha opine about this easygoing space where the visual language is painted through clean lines and organic forms, "The space is far from mundane, for a vivid play of textures adds dimension and depth."

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call this den a museum of memorable adjectives, thanks to the many elements of surprise that sit and pose as you tip-toe around. Of all, the subtle punches of contrasts win the attention foremost, an exploratory expedition that begins right at the entryway. Think of a door dressed up in polished charcoal black and bejewelled with a round dot-like wooden handle. It echoes a witty juxtaposition at the very first glance. >>

The bathroom emanates an easy elegance, set with fittings by Kohler, wall light by The Project Lighting, gilded stool by Topp Brass, marble work by Classic Marble Company and wall and floor finish by Belleza Decor
FACING PAGE The bedroom aglow with daylight revels in a minimally decked design featuring wall paint by Asian Paints adorned with artwork by Art Chain India and wall light by Leviosa. Sarita Handa and Altrove bed linens complete the neutral palette along with laminate wooden flooring by Symphony International



The layout upon entrance gives a peek into the dwellers' way of living – free-spirited and uninhibited in the way they allow multiple concepts of decoration to co-exist within one space together. If you have started decoding the hints yet, you'll know it's the boundless sights of the dancing ocean waves and the lush greens outside that become the main vocabulary of the home while mingling with the key themes of uncluttered decor, textural narrative alongside an adventurous mix of art. The first such eclectic frame is witnessed in the living room, a spacious territory that basks in the daily conversations of the two paintings by Shamshad Hussain and Bose Krishnamachari and a hearty wall-to-wall window that could pass as yet another picturesque frame of the beauty outdoors.

In a traditional world, where bright colours take the prize for being more fun and memorable, The Sea House maunders away from this notion. The walls of the living area, kitchen, dining zone, bedrooms and washrooms take an unhesitating dip in tones of off-white, ivory and light grey. While the assembly of muted and white-hued furniture in the heart of the den adds depth to the drama of the colourful wall artwork by Bhuwal Prasad. Don't

forget art and views are the heroes here. The dining room reinstates this. A minimal, sleek table, stripe upholstered chairs, sketches by Sakti Burman and Krishen Khanna, a wall plate by Fornasetti, a wide-running window drawing up a slice of the blue waters and some piping hot food served on the side. Need one say more? The appetite for soft surprises keeps growing with every step of the way. A library of textural aesthetics, from the linen bed back, slight leathery surface of green leaves, marble-esque light fixtures and select pieces of ceramic decor make up the boudoir. As much as it is a cosy sanctuary for the family, the bedroom also preserves the central tenet of the den's interior design. That is through its abundantly carved out windows, which lets the rousing life of the surroundings outside to cascade inside, scene by scene and day through night. And fortunate so for the family, they don't have to scour many shelves and drawers to decipher adjectives and its meanings for the space. After all, the secret to cherishing such homes is best discovered by living it and breathing its story of birth everyday, as one grows old (and wise) along with the home. ♦

